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QUESTION OF CYPRUS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-first year

Letter dated 22 July 1996 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to draw your attention to the visit of Turkish Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan to the Turkish occupied areas of the Republic of Cyprus, on 20 July 1996.

The reason for Mr. Erbakan's visit, along with other ministers of the Turkish Government, was to attend the "celebrations" of the twenty-second anniversary of the Turkish invasion in Cyprus, organized by the occupation regime. Present at the "celebrations" were also a representative of the President of Turkey, the Vice-President of the Turkish National Assembly, the leader of the Democratic Left Party (DSP), Mr. Bullent Ecevit, and representatives of the military leadership.

The Turkish Prime Minister stated upon his arrival in Cyprus - his first visit abroad since he came to power - that "the world should realize that there are two States in Cyprus". In this regard, it should be recalled that Mr. Erbakan supported the occupation of the whole island in 1974. At that time he was deputy Prime Minister of the Turkish Government, under Prime Minister Ecevit. It was that Government which staged the invasion and, since then, the occupation of the northern part of the Republic of Cyprus.

The visit of the new Prime Minister of Turkey to the occupied areas of the Republic of Cyprus is a clear manifestation of the Turkish intransigence with regard to the question of Cyprus and is in complete disregard of the relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations on Cyprus. In protesting against this condemnable behaviour of the Turkish Government, it should be recalled that such actions are contrary to the provisions of Security Council resolution 541 (1983), which considers the establishment of the regime in the

occupied part of Cyprus as legally invalid. Furthermore, the Security Council in resolution 550 (1984) "reiterates the call upon all States not to recognize the purported State of the 'Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus' set up by secessionist acts and calls upon them not to facilitate or in any way assist the aforesaid secessionist entity".

The demonstration of such a provocative attitude by Turkey is yet another example of the lack of political will for a solution of the Cyprus problem on the Turkish side and revealing of its real objectives, aiming at consolidating the de facto division of the island. At the same time, it places serious impediments in the way of the efforts to achieve progress in the search for a solution of the Cyprus problem, at a time of increased interest on the part of the international community.

I wish to stress in the strongest possible terms my Government's protest for this provocative visit of the Turkish leadership to the occupied part of Cyprus to participate in the "celebrations" of the twenty-second anniversary of the tragic events of 1974.

After these 22 years of occupation and mass violations of the human rights of the people of Cyprus, one third of the island's population is still prevented by the Turkish occupation forces from returning to their homes, facing at the same time the continuous provocations of the Turkish side.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 55, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kornelios S. KORNELIOU
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
of the Republic of Cyprus
to the United Nations